

1906.

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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF  
ST. AUSTELL.

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ANNUAL REPORTS

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—OF—

THE MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH,

AND


SANITARY INSPECTOR  
AND SURVEYOR.

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ST. AUSTELL:

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# Medical Officer's Report for 1906.

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ST. AUSTELL,

29th January, 1907.

To the Chairman and Members of the St. Austell Urban  
District Council,

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit for your consideration a report of the Sanitary condition of the District, and also the work accomplished during the past year, in accordance with the instructions given by the Local Government Board; and, although no great or special work has been under your consideration, the general sanitary condition has been improved, and every attention has been given to the housing of the working classes, and though several schemes were suggested it was found impossible to carry them out under present conditions without becoming a heavy burden on the ratepayers.

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

The Notifiable Diseases during the year were—six cases of scarlet fever, two of typhoid, and two of erysipelas.

SCARLET FEVER occurred as follows—Three cases at Moorland Road, one at Fore Street, one at Truro Road, and one at Trenance Road; in each instance it was imported; but, being notified early, and every precaution being taken, the disease did not further spread. There was no fatality.

TYPHOID FEVER occurred at Pond-dhu Road and Market Hill; both cases were very mild, and every precaution was

taken, the disease did not further spread ; but cases recovered ; but there was a fatal case of typhoid, which was notified in the previous year, at West Bridge.

ERYSIPELAS.—Two cases occurred, one at West Bridge and one at Greenwood's Row. There was no fatality.

### NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

MEASLES were imported from Wadebridge, and spread rapidly throughout the district. Some of the cases were very severe. There were four deaths, all in children between one and five years of age ; one having occurred at Eastbourne Road, the other three in the Workhouse Hospital. Not being notifiable, I cannot find the exact number. Those that came under my notice were strictly cautioned to isolate and disinfect ; but, I fear, some of the parents paid little or no attention to my warning ; hence the disease spread, and a large number of cases occurred.

DIARRHOEA.—Only one death occurred, and that in a very young child.

TUBERCULOSIS.—There were six deaths from this disease, four in the District and two in the Workhouse. The houses were visited and the people were instructed as to disinfection and ventilation.

You will see that the fatality has been greater in non-notifiable diseases than in notifiable diseases.

The death rate from all zymotic diseases was 1·7 per 1,000 inhabitants.

House-to-house visitation has been made in several parts of the District, more especially at West Bridge, and our attention was directed to the drinking water and drainage. The drainage was considered not satisfactory, and the Council have commenced a system of drainage, which, I have no doubt, will prove satisfactory. The sewer at the Gas Works



has been extended about 250 yards, and the out-fall improved ; the other two parts of the scheme will be carried out the ensuing year.

The drinking water has had a good deal of the Council's attention. Owing to the misuse of water in the summer months the supply was cut off from midnight to 6 a.m ; this should not have been, as the supply, at its lowest, was about 40 gallons per head ; however, the Council are contemplating further extending the water, and during the year several new sources have been visited, but we are of opinion that more water could be procured from the present source ; perhaps it would be advisable for the Council to consider whether it would be better to have meters for other than domestic purposes. The supply at Bojea has been improved, about 300 yards of 6-inch iron pipes have been laid, and the stoneware pipes dispensed with.

The Market House has had our attention, the sanitary condition not being satisfactory. Some steps have been taken, and the place improved ; but the closet accommodation is still in the same state, and requires further attention.

There is only one Urinal in the District at present, but was hoping to see others erected before this. I am informed that sites are very difficult to be procured.

A New Road has been made, and it will prove a great boon to the neighbourhood. As the place is now opened up, the old walls and hedges removed, I hope it will be the means of getting a better class of houses in that part of the District.

The District is chiefly supplied with Water Closets ; in some instances the hopper system is in use, and, generally speaking, they have been kept in a satisfactory condition. House Refuse is removed daily by Council's Scavengers. The Lodging Houses have been inspected, and found well kept.

There is no Slaughter House in the District.

The Dairies and Cow Sheds have been visited, and most of them are satisfactory.

The Bakehouses also have been visited, and have been regularly limewashed and ventilated according to the Bye Laws.

The Factories and Workshops have been visited, and the sanitary arrangements have been found satisfactory. As to Outworks, at present we are not furnished with any lists, so the Table for such cannot be filled up. The Council intend posting Notices about the District, calling attention to this, and will also furnish me with books and forms for carrying out the work, so I am hoping another year to furnish the necessary information. At present I know of no Outworks, most of the work being done in rooms adjoining the business. There are no noxious trades carried on in the District. The said rooms have been visited, and the sanitary arrangements have had attention, also the ventilation. They have been regularly limewashed.

Four new houses have been erected during the year, a small number for an Urban District,—the great difficulty being the scarcity of sites suitable for building purposes.

A great number of nuisances have had our attention, and were abated without notice being served.

Each entrance to Moorland Road is unsightly, and will require your attention. I believe at present there are some difficulties in the way. The highway open drain at the East end should be covered, as during dark nights it is hardly safe in its present condition. The West end is also very unsatisfactory, demolished buildings being allowed to remain there, and the place is liable to become a dumping ground for the inhabitants. If the site could be procured suitable dwelling houses could be erected, or it might be made a recreation ground for the children,—this also applies to the East end.

I now append the Birth and Death Rate from 1880 to the present, viz.—

	Birth Rate	Death Rate
1880	33·1	22
1881	26·6	18·1
1882	23·7	25·9
1883	26·2	24·2
1884	30·9	18·7
1885	27·07	27·3
1886	24·2	23·4
1887	25·1	25·9
1888	22·8	18·4
1889	23·4	15·6
1890	19·2	24·6
1891	25·3	22·1
1892	23·8	20·1
1893	26·7	23·8
1894	28·6	20·1
1895	25·02	18·9
1896	23·8	16·6
1897	22·1	16·6
1898	20·9	23·2
1899	27·3	27·03
1900	19·5	22·1
1901	18·5	21·2
1902	26·3	16·07
1903	19·4	17·3
1904	18·8	20·6
1905	20	16·7
1906	21·8	20·3

The Birth Rate is gradually decreasing, and although two points more than the one for the previous year, it is below the average for the past ten years. The Death Rate is more than the one for the preceding year, and one above the average for the past ten years.

The Deaths under one year are below the average, and also below the one for the preceding year. Omitting the Workhouse, the Birth Rate is above the average, and above the one for the preceding year—20·3, and the Death Rate 14·7; children under one year 1·8; taking the number of Births registered it would be 92, which is below the average, and the same as the preceding year.

The several Tables are appended—

Table I. you will see gives the Births, and Deaths of children under 1 year.

Table II. gives the District separate from the Union.

Table III. gives the number of cases notified.

Table IV. gives the death at all ages, the District and Workhouse separate, also the chief causes.

Table V. gives the Infant Mortality, the ages and causes, also the legitimate and illegitimate births, and also the deaths.

Table VI. is the Factory and Workshops Act, also a Table for home workers; this latter I have not been able to fill in as I have no list of outworkers, which has been previously referred to.

During the present year there are other sanitary matters connected with the health of the District which I will bring before you, and I have no doubt they will receive from you the same amount of consideration as they have in the past. Differences of opinion are bound to exist as to the usefulness and method of carrying out the different schemes, but still I trust that you will all agree that these reforms are for the benefit of the district, and the health of the inhabitants. Economy is a good and safe policy, but it is not always wise to adopt it in every case. I hope the same harmony and good feeling will be extended in the future as in the past.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

WILLIAM MASON, M.O.H.



# Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report for 1906.

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To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District  
Council of St. Austell,

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit you my Report and Summary of work  
carried out during the year.

## SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st, 1906.

Accumulation of offensive matter removed	..	..	8
House Drains choked and remedied	..	..	11
Foul Closets and Privies cleaned	..	..	7
New House Drains in lieu of old	..	..	2
House Drains tested	..	..	10
New Water Closets	..	..	16
Sanitary Inspection by request	..	..	3
Do. do. of School Premises	..	..	4
Do. do. of Railway Premises	..	..	4
Houses fumigated	..	..	
Houses limewashed and cleansed	..	..	2
Pigs removed	..	..	4
Cesspits removed	..	..	
Overcrowding Cases abated	..	..	
Notices served to remedy Sanitary Defects	..	..	2
Smoke Nuisances	..	..	
Offensive Traders	..	..	
Legal Proceedings	..	..	
Reports to Council	..	..	11

During the year the District was thoroughly inspected. The Notices to Abate Nuisances were complied with, with the exception of Mr. Percy, lessee of the Market House ; in this case much trouble was given. The Market House is now kept in a much cleaner state. Most of the Drains tested by the Asphyxiator were found defective. The work required to remedy the defects in each case was carried out.

### SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

At present there are no Slaughter Houses in the District.

### BAKEHOUSES.

These have been periodically inspected, and found entirely satisfactory.

### FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT.

These have all been inspected as to their state of cleanliness, sanitary arrangements, and air space, and found satisfactory.

### ICE CREAM TRADE.

There are two manufacturers of Ice Cream in the District. Everything is done to ensure the purity of Ice Cream.

### DAIRIES, MILKSHOPS, AND COWSHEDS.

The Medical Officer and I have periodically inspected the Dairies, Milkshops, and Cowsheds. The Dairies and Milkshops were clean ; and there has certainly been an improvement some of the rooms used as Dairies are not suitable, being only intended for living rooms. There has also been a great improvement in the condition of the Cowsheds, although some are not up to the standard one would like to see them. Let us venture to hope that the time is not far distant when all cowkeepers will see the necessity for cleanliness, ventilation and air space.

## HOUSE-TO-HOUSE INSTECTION.

A periodical house-to-house inspection has been made by the Medical Officer and myself. In some cases the sanitary arrangements were not satisfactory; in these cases the nuisances were abated.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year the District was almost free from Infectious Diseases.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. SAMBLE.

# Surveyor's Report for 1906.

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To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council  
of St. Austell.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for 1906, and to submit to you a statement of work carried out.

There are within the District about one and a half miles of Main Roads and five and a quarter miles of other Roads. During the year 543 cubic yards of stone were spread on Main Roads, and the amount received for watering same was £13. On other Roads 391 yards of stone were spread, which is a decrease of output of stone of about 18 yards as against the preceding year.

Amount expended on Steam Road Rolling was as follows, viz. :—

Main Roads	..	£54	8	6
Other Roads	..	£73	0	0
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		£127	8	6

(Exclusive of Manual and Team Labour).

One new Road was made during the year, leading from High Cross Street to East Hill (and called King's Avenue), for which the lowest tender for removing the sod, earth, laying foundations, providing, spreading, and rolling metal, etc., was £226 : 10 : 0, it was considered by your Surveyor that the work could be done (departmentally) at a much less cost, and it was decided that the work should be carried out by direct labour, the actual cost of same being £135 : 0 : 4, shewing a saving of £91 : 9 : 8. Here you have a very striking instance of the abuse of the contract system, and I think you will support me in my contention that the making and maintenance of roads should, in all cases, be done by direct labour.



During the year several old sewers were taken out and reconstructed with stoneware pipes, and the sewer outlet has been extended to a point further down the river.

### PUBLIC LIGHTING.

There are within the District 111 Lamps with single Incandescent burners and 3 with double burners, in all 114 lamps.

### STABLE DEPARTMENT.

The Council are the owners of one horse and cart, together with one water van, one water cart, and two sets of harness. The cost for the keep of the horse has been about 12/6 per week, but in addition to this it was necessary to hire other haulage to carry on the work of the District as follows :—

Main Roads	..	£167	3	9
Other Roads	..	97	9	3
Scavenging	..	21	9	0
No. 8 Loan	..	45	4	0
		<hr/>		
		£331	6	0
		<hr/>		

This amount is an increase of £90 : 2 : 3 on the previous year, but deducting No. 8 Loan the increase would only be £44 : 18 : 0.

### STREET AND HOUSE SCAVENGING DEPARTMENT.

House and Street Scavenging has been efficiently carried out by the Council's employees ; very few complaints have been received. During the year 3,420 loads of refuse have been removed.

### NEW BUILDINGS.

Plans for 3 New Buildings were submitted to the General Purposes Committee, and were all approved.

## WATER SUPPLY.

The supply during the summer months was most satisfactory ; the year's rainfall being 2·18 inches below the average, and amounted to 39·42, against 34·43 for last year. The average gauging of the Water Supply of the District was as follows, viz. :—

Bojea	..	40 gallons per minute.
Carne Stents	..	60 do. do.
Total		100 gallons per minute.

On averaging the above to the population of the Urban District it gives a supply of 45 gallons per head per day ; after taking into consideration the quantity used by the Rural District, also for gardens, stables, and trade purposes in each District, I feel confident that there is more used and wasted, by leaving taps running after use, in stables and gardens than there is for domestic purposes, and I again contend that all water supplied for other than domestic purposes should be by meter.

There is also a very great waste of water from the Urinals at the various licensed houses. Each of these should be supplied with an automatic Drop to-drop Cistern and Sprage pipe to prevent the misuse of water, but even if this system is adopted these 12 Urinals would still use a large quantity of water, say, at least 30,000 to 40,000 gallons per week.

It is most important that the very best fittings should be used ; in many cases they have been inferior and unsuitable for the heavy pressure of water in our District.

The hours of water supply during the past summer months were from 6 a.m. till 12 midnight.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN SAMBLE.



